

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF SINOLOGICAL LIBRARIANS

The fourteenth annual conference of EASL was held in the Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, from 8th to 10th September 1994. The meetings were chaired by Thomas Hahn.

Present were:

Jana Šrajerová (Oriental Institute, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague)
Olga Lomová (Philosophy Faculty, Charles University, Prague)
Marina Battaglini (Biblioteca Nazionale, Rome)
YU Dong (Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana)
Kathy Thölen (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)
Rita Baldeger (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)
Lin Ching-wen (Ostasiatisches Seminar der Universität Zürich)
Nathalie Monnet (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)
Hubert Delahaye (Collège de France, Paris)
PEH Guat-Kooi (Centre Chine, Paris)
Monique Abud (Centre Chine, Paris)
Joyce Wu (Sinologisch Instituut, Leiden)
Johann-Michael Streffer (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Cordula Gumbrecht (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)
Andreas Mixius (Universitätsbibliothek und TIB, Hanover)
Diane Strobl (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)
Thomas Hahn (Sinologisches Seminar der Universität Heidelberg)
Ina Asim (Institut für Sinologie der Universität Würzburg)
Barbara Hoster (Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin)
Alek Stypa (Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin)
Basilija Fang (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Wien)
Sue Swee Chin Small (School of Oriental and African Studies, London)
Frances Wood (British Library, London)
David Arrandale (Brotherton Library, University of Leeds)
David Helliwell (Bodleian Library, Oxford)
Bent Lerbæk Pedersen (Det Kongelige Bibliotek, København)

ACTA

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Bingsum Lau (London), Monique Cohen (Paris), Tony Hyder (Oxford), Charles Aylmer (Cambridge), Andrei Borisov (Moscow).
2. Notices and reports
 - 2.1 Jana Šrajerová gave an account of the Luxun Library, of which she is curator.
 - 2.2 Cordula Gumbrecht and Alek Stypa were introduced and congratulated on their respective appointments at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin and the Institut Monumenta Serica, Sankt Augustin.
 - 2.3 It was reported that Zhou Hongli, president of CNPITC, would attend the Frankfurt Book Fair in the autumn, and call at Leiden, Berlin and Heidelberg during the course of his visit.
 - 2.4 The Bodleian Library (Oxford) reported that it had recently received a grant from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for the purchase of modern Chinese materials.
 - 2.5 The attention of members was drawn to address changes of the Chinesisches Seminar

der Universität Heidelberg and of the Chinese section of the Oriental Institute Library at Oxford, details of which would be circulated separately.

- 2.6 Thomas Hahn and Sue Small gave an account of the EASL trip to China, April 1994. Sue Small's account of the trip in BEASL 7 would form the basis of the official EASL record of this visit.
- 2.7 The Treasurer's report was accepted as a true and accurate statement of EASL's current financial position.
- 2.8 Several EASL members had attended the OCLC CJK-Plus demonstration in London in November 1993, and reported on the day's proceedings.
- 2.9 Joyce Wu announced that at Leiden, experiments were being conducted on providing the local PICA system with a Chinese script facility, using GB coding.
- 2.10 J-M Steffer reported on a beginners' course in Chinese automated cataloguing that he had held in Bremen in early June for German sinological librarians. It was suggested that EASL might arrange such a course for a wider audience, and the Secretary was asked to establish the level of interest.
- 2.11 Hubert Delahaye reported that two informal meetings of sinological librarians in Paris had been held in the past year.
- 2.12 Thomas Hahn announced that there would be an informal meeting of German sinological librarians in Heidelberg on 4th-5th October, followed by the 3rd Chinesisch und Computer workshop, to be arranged jointly with Urs Widmer on 6th-7th October. EASL members who wish to participate in the workshop should contact Thomas Hahn for further details. There is a registration fee of DM50.

3. Automation

- 3.1 Reports were given on the progress of automation in Zürich (using a Mackintosh Filemaker system), Berlin, Heidelberg and Oxford (each using differently configured *allegro* systems).
- 3.2 Frances Wood raised the matter of catalogue records on CD-ROM in Peking and Taipei, and suggested that EASL should find out whether any were available, and if so, how. Thomas Hahn agreed to write to Peking Library and the National Central Library to determine the current situation.
- 3.3 It was agreed that as detailed discussion on automation matters was tedious to a substantial proportion of members, it should take place separately in a revived Automation Committee under the chairmanship of Thomas Hahn. Regional information would be collected and supplied to Thomas Hahn, who would provide digests for posting in BEASL, on CJKLIB, and for more general discussion at EASL meetings.

4. EDOCS

- 4.1 J-M Streffer reported that little progress had been made during the last two years, as very little data had been supplied by participants. Members were urged to supply details of their holdings to J-M Streffer at the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin for inclusion in the database.
- 4.2 Output of the current database on 4 microfiches was supplied to participants in the project.
- 4.3 Thomas Hahn announced that he had negotiated free online access to ZDB for one year for all contributing members, and that he had also made arrangements for the downloading of EDOCS on to diskette. Members would be informed of any further developments on these fronts.

5. Union list of gazetteers

- 5.1 Thomas Hahn reported that Mrs Zhuang Weifeng of Shantou Daxue Tushuguan was still willing to undertake the production of a union catalogue of Chinese local histories

(*difangzhi*) in European libraries, and also to fund this project.

- 5.2 There was some discussion on the general shape of the project and the extent to which EASL members might be required to participate in the gathering of data, and it was generally felt that individual sinological librarians in European collections did not have the resources to offer much local help in this area. It was agreed that Mrs Zhuang should be fully apprised of the circumstances in which EASL members operate, and Thomas Hahn undertook to do this.
- 5.3 Thomas Hahn agreed to ask Mrs Zhuang to assess the feasibility of the project on the basis of this information, and to provide a written proposal of how the project might proceed for discussion at the next conference.

6. BEASL

- 6.1 BEASL 7 (June 1994) had been edited and produced in Cambridge by Charles Aylmer, and members expressed thanks for the time and effort he had devoted to its publication. However, the exclusion and abridgement of certain contributions was noted, as was the extent to which the publication deadline agreed at the last conference had been exceeded.
- 6.2 Thanks were given to Laura Rivkin for her work in soliciting advertising for BEASL, as a result of which the production costs of at one more issue could be met without recourse to borrowing. The Secretary agreed to ask her if she would consider continuing her work for EASL in this area.
- 6.3 Ina Asim was asked to edit the next two issues of BEASL, which she kindly agreed to do, and members were of the view that whereas she should have a free hand in the matter of their size, design and format, the size of our budget should be borne in mind.
- 6.4 Deadlines were set and agreed as follows: December 15th for BEASL 8, and June 15th 1995 for BEASL 9.
- 6.5 The Secretary was asked to solicit contributions of £10 from each member institution towards the costs of production of the next two issues, at the time of distribution.

7. Statistics

- 7.1 The Secretary had circulated forms for the gathering of statistics to all members, but to date had received only a relatively small number of replies, so few that he had not considered them worth publishing alone in BEASL 7.
- 7.2 Members were of the view that the exercise was still worthwhile, and that the results obtained thus far should be presented in tabular form in BEASL 8. Efforts should be made to encourage other institutions to cooperate, and the Secretary agreed to issue reminders.

8. Chinese book price structure

- 8.1 Papers relating to the recent Chinese revision of the way book export prices are calculated were circulated, together with exchanges between US sinological librarians on this subject.
- 8.2 Members were uncertain as to the relative benefits of the various arrangements proposed, especially as several of the major European buyers were invoiced in their own currencies and not the US dollar. There was however a general feeling that the present (i.e. old) structure should be left unchanged.
- 8.3 Members were in broad sympathy with the points made by our US colleagues, and Thomas Hahn agreed to send letters to the US lending our support, and to the two major book-sellers in Peking (CIBTC and CNPITC) urging a return to the established structure.

9. EACS

- 9.1 Thomas Hahn reported that EACS had offered membership to all EASL members for the group membership fee of DM100 per annum. Subject to written confirmation of

this generous offer, it was agreed that the Treasurer should be authorised to make this payment to EACS annually from the EASL account.

- 9.2 A member of EASL, normally the Chairman, would continue to represent EASL at EACS conferences. Also, EASL conferences would continue to be held in association with EACS conferences so long as the time and place of such conferences made this arrangement sensible.

10. Election of Chairman

- 10.1 Owing to pressure of other commitments, Thomas Hahn announced that he was unable to continue as Chairman of EASL indefinitely. J-M Streffer proposed that Kathy Thölen would make an excellent successor, and she was therefore elected *nemine contradicente*.

- 10.2 The Secretary suggested that Thomas Hahn should remain in office as Chairman for the remainder of this "EASL" year in order to complete the various matters which he had in hand, and that the Chairman-elect should assume office from the beginning of the next conference. These arrangements were agreed.

11. Library visits

During the course of the conference, Jana Šrajerová and Olga Lomová showed members the two Chinese collections for which, respectively, they are responsible: the Luxun Library at the Oriental Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and the Chinese collection at the Philosophy Faculty of Charles University. Before the visit to the Luxun Library members were given a welcoming address by Professor Josef Kolmaš. Jana Šrajerová also arranged for us to visit the old Jesuit library in the Clementinum, now part of the National Library, a room of the most extraordinary magnificence.

12. Exchange of library personnel

Thomas Hahn explained a scheme for the exchange of library personnel which he had had the opportunity of arranging on behalf of EASL members. It was felt, however, that European institutions were unlikely to place the management of such schemes in the hands of third parties, and that it would be more appropriate for individual institutions to set them up in accordance with their own requirements and interests.

13. Fifteenth annual conference

It was agreed that the fifteenth annual conference should be held in Zürich during the first full week in September 1995 [actually Thursday 7th-Saturday 9th].

The fifteenth annual conference closed with an expression of thanks to Jana Šrajerová for her excellent arrangements.

David Helliwell
Secretary

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